



Commercial Filming & Photography Information

Commercial filming is defined as digital or film recording of a visual image or sound recording by a person, business, or other entity for a market audience, such as for a documentary, television or feature film, advertisement, or similar project. Under Public Law 106-206 all commercial filming requires a permit and is subject to a location fee and cost recovery.

In Public Law 106-206, Congress expressed the importance of resource protection and provided that the permit request should be denied if:

- There is the likelihood that resource damage would occur that cannot be mitigated or restored under the terms and conditions of a permit;
- There is the likelihood of unreasonable disruption of or conflict with the public's use/enjoyment of the site;
- There is the likelihood that the activity poses health or safety risks to the public;
- There is the likelihood that the activity would result in the impairment of park resources or values;
- The requested activity will violate any other applicable Federal, State, or local law or regulation.

Applying for a Special Use Permit for filming and photography is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Complete, sign, and return the permit application form electronically to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov
2. Submit a copy of your insurance naming the "United States Government" as additionally insured electronically to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov
3. Submit an application fee of \$150.00. Application fees must be submitted electronically through pay.gov by visiting: <https://pay.gov/public/form/start/77183133>

Application



A Special Use Permit application must be submitted in order for any commercial filming or photography to be considered within the boundaries of Zion National Park or to film any National Park employee whether within the park or at another location.

Applications are available by visiting:

<https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/commercial-filming-and-photography.htm>

If you are a crew of fewer than 5 persons and do not plan to use any cast, models, props or sets, you may use the "short form" application. If there is any doubt—use the "long form." Please COMPLETELY fill out the application. Please provide as much detail as you can in regards to what you want to film and what you would like to accomplish.

Please feel free to add additional pages or storyboards if needed. The more detail we have initially, the less time it will take to do the compliance and permitting process.

Timeline

Applications AND application fees MUST be received by the park a MINIMUM of three weeks (21 days) in advance of proposed dates. Four weeks for any project complex in nature, that exceeds 12 cast and/or crew members, or involves filming in areas off paved or hardened surfaces / off-trail.

Once the application and application fee are received, the proposed project will undergo a compliance review to ensure that natural and cultural resources and/or visitor experiences will not be unduly impacted. Upon approval from the Superintendent, the permit will be approved. The final permit along with conditions of permit will be sent to the applicant for their signature. Once countersigned, the permittee will need to send a copy back to the Special Park Use Office. An application can be denied a permit for a variety of reasons.

Performance Bonds

Depending upon the complexity and scope of the project, a performance bond may be required to ensure that the area used is returned to the same state as prior to filming activities. The performance bond may also be used to deduct additional costs associated with the permit that may include, though not be limited to: additional administrative costs not associated with application fee, monitoring costs, maintenance of area post-filming/production; and mitigation of natural and/or cultural resource damage. See FEES for possible costs.

Fees

Application Fee

A \$150 non-refundable application fee is required. This covers the first three hours of time spent processing/administering the permit. This may include telephone/email conversations, site visits, developing permit conditions, etc.

Administrative Fees

Permits/projects that require more than three hours of administrative time for review, site visits, meetings or processing, will be charged at the rate of \$50.00 per hour.

Compliance Fees

Compliance review is required for all special use permits. A \$250 fee is charged for proposals that required additional analysis such as large groups (12 people or more), large events, activities occurring off trail, temporary construction occurring inside the park, or any proposal that could potentially have an adverse effect on park resources and/or visitor experiences. The compliance fee covers the first five hours of staff time spent on compliance review.

Location Fees

The National Park Service has implemented location fees effective May 15, 2006 as directed by Congress set by Public Law 106-206 in 1998. These fees are based on the number of cast/crew per day. These are NPS standards and are non-negotiable. Location fee for the minimum anticipated days is due two business days prior to filming date. Any additional days will be billed at the end of the filming.



Location Fees for Motion Pictures or Video	
• 1-10 people	\$150.00/day
• 11-30 people	\$250.00/day
• 31-49 people	\$500.00/day
• Over 50 people	\$750.00/day

Location Fees for Commercial Still Photography	
• 1-10 people	\$50.00/day
• 11-30 people	\$150.00/day
• Over 30 people	\$250.00/day

Monitoring Fees

Filming activities may be monitored by a qualified NPS employee to assure full compliance with all of the terms and conditions of permit. The charge is \$ 50.00 per hour with a 3-hour minimum. This will be charged at the end of the filming or may be taken out of the performance bond if one was required. Small projects with no potential impact to natural/cultural resources or visitor experience with a small cast/crew may be considered for spot-check monitoring instead of on-site monitoring and may be charged a flat \$50.00 spot monitoring fee.

Insurance

General commercial liability insurance is required. A minimum of \$1,000,000 is typically required. Complex projects or projects with large cast/crews or sets will require higher insurance. The "United States Government" will be named as "additional insured" on the insurance certificate. If further specificity is desired/requested: "the Department of Interior, National Park Service, Zion National Park." A copy of the insurance from the Carrier must be received PRIOR to issuing an approved permit.

The NPS may require additional insurance commensurate with the risk involved with your filming activities. IMPORTANT: The name on the certificate of insurance must match your business name, including any names used under "doing business as." The certificate can be mailed to the address below or emailed directly to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov. The certificate holder's address must read: US Government, National Park Service, Special Park Use Office, SR 9, Springdale UT 84767.

Nature Films

To address the needs of videographers and cinematographers who produce nature films highlighting the wonders of national parks, the following provision is in effect: Commercial videographers, cinematographers, or sound recording crews of up to two people with only minimal equipment (i.e., a camera and a tripod) working in areas open to the public are required to obtain a commercial filming permit and are subject to appropriate permit terms and conditions and cost recovery charges but are not subject to location fees.

Filming Locations

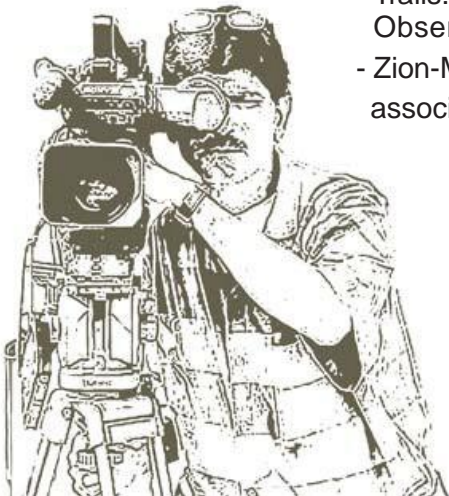
- Kolob Canyons Area including paved road and associated overlooks and parking lots.
- Kolob Terrace Road Corridor and associated pullouts and parking areas.
- Lava Point Area including campground, picnic area and overlook
- Main Zion Canyon Area including the campgrounds, road corridor from South Entrance to the Temple of Sinawava and associated overlooks, parking areas and most areas (open to the general public) around Zion Lodge.
- Trails: Pa'rus Trail, Watchman Trail, Emerald Pools Trail, Weeping Rock Trail, Observation Point Trail, Canyon Overlook Trail, and Timber Creek Overlook Trail
- Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway road corridor from Canyon Junction to the East Entrance and associated pullouts and parking areas.

NOT PERMITTED:

- Filming and Photography located within designated Wilderness or Recommended Wilderness Areas. This includes most slot canyons.
- West Rim Trail (including Scouts Lookout and Angels Landing). Riverside Walk Trail and Narrows Route. These areas are not currently permitted in order to address over-capacity issues occurring in these areas.

NOTE:

- Filming requests for areas not listed above are accepted, however a compliance review is required and there is no guarantee that a permit would be approved. Refer to Filming Zone Maps to see map of Potential Filming Areas.



Cancellation or Delays

Notification of initial delays or schedule changes for start of activities must be provided to the NPS at least two days in advance. Failure to provide adequate notification will result in a non-refundable minimum charge of \$150 for each person scheduled for the activity. (Charges may be waived on a case-by case basis in the event of uncontrollable acts of nature such as road closures due to fires, landslides, emergencies and park closures.)

If rain/weather is an issue, you may want to consider including alternate “Rain Dates” in case weather is a factor for your project. Please keep in mind that you are still required to contact the park—preferably one business day in advance before 2:00 pm. Please keep in mind that the weather within the park changes and cannot be predicted.

Additional Information

Additional information about Zion National Park may be found on our website at <http://www.nps.gov/zion>.

Additional information for filming outside of Zion may be found at the Utah Film Commission website at <http://www.film.utah.gov> or Kane County Film Commission website at <http://www.visitsouthernutah.com/film-commission.html>

Still Photography

The decision to require a permit for still photography activities in a park is based on the activity itself as opposed to the eventual use of the image. Generally, permits are not required for still photography activities unless:

- The activity takes place at location(s) where or when members of the public are generally not allowed; or
- The activity uses model(s), set(s), or prop(s) that are not a part of the location's natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities; or
- The park would incur costs for providing on-site management and oversight to protect park resource and minimize visitor use conflicts (If an activity has the potential to interfere with other park visitors, park activities, and/or impact park resources.)

Photography of small wedding parties or family groups do not require a permit if the project does not include the conditions provided above. Permits are required for all weddings taking place inside Zion National Park. More information on the permitting process for weddings is available by visiting: <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/weddings-in-zion-national-park.htm>

If none of these conditions exist, a permit is not required. We request that you contact us anyway so that we are aware of your activities and can provide you with the appropriate park information.

